

# DIMP

(Distribution Integrity Management Program)

## Report on Phase 1 Investigation - One Perspective -

# Gas Distribution Systems

- ✦ Lower Pressure (Usually < 250 psig)
- ✦ More Complex (~2 Million Miles)
- ✦ Don't Rupture
- ✦ Fail as Leaks (for Various Reasons)
  - ✦ Can Be High Mass Flow (see PST EFV Report)
    - ✦ Rate Important - What Type & Where
  - ✦ Leak Tracking Very Important
  - ✦ All Systems Leak
- ✦ Most Pipeline Deaths in U.S. (more miles)
- ✦ Usually Intrastate System

# DIMP

- ✦ Not Transmission IM
- ✦ DIMP Appropriate & Should Apply to All Gas Distribution Operators (i.e. master meters)
- ✦ Operator Must Know Their System
  - ✦ The 7 Key Elements
- ✦ Recommends System Wide Performance Based Regulation
  - ✦ High Level - Flexible
  - ✦ Small vs Large Operator
    - ✦ Simple Detail Guidance for Small Operator

# DIMP Report Key Issues

- ✦ 3rd Party Damage Enforcement
- ✦ Managing and Reporting Leaks
- ✦ EFVs

# 3rd Party Damage Enforcement

- ✦ 3rd Party Damage Leading Cause of Gas Distribution Failure
- ✦ Education Important But Limited in its Effectiveness
- ✦ Many Violators Not Subject to Pipeline Safety Regulations
  - ✦ Limits of One-Call/Those Who Will Not Call!
  - ✦ High Percentage of One-Call Results in Damage
- ✦ The Few States With Damage Enforcement (9 elements) Have Reduced Damages
  - ✦ Funding for States Critical

# Managing Gas Leaks

- ★ All Gas Systems Leak
  - ★ Measurement/Classification/Tracking
  - ★ Some Intermittent
- ★ Key Issues
  - ★ Subjective & Inconsistency
  - ★ Current Annual Report Inadequate
  - ★ Who Gets to See Reports?
- ★ Leak Reporting - The Critical Issue!
  - ★ Flag Possible System Breakdowns?

# EFVs

- ✦ For New & Replacement Service Lines
- ✦ Not Appropriate in All Service Lines
- ✦ Operation of 6.3 million EFVs in U.S. Demonstrates Highest Reliability
- ✦ A Safety Against Combination of Risk Factors
  - ✦ 3P's Place Operator at Highest Risks & Most Likely Candidate for EFVs
- ✦ Provide Guidance on Where EFVs Not Appropriate

# Where Going From Here?

- ✦ Much Good Accomplished in Past Year
- ✦ Now In PHMSA Hands
- ✦ Performance Metrics
- ✦ Low-Stress Transmission Pipelines?
- ✦ 2008 - 2009 Time Frame!
- ✦ Could Be Big Difference Between Report and Final Regulation